



'21-22 | SPRING

MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES

# PRISMS

OF SOUND

UNIVERSITY OF  
DELAWARE



MASTER  
PLAYERS  
CONCERT SERIES

# LETTER FROM THE UD PRESIDENT & FIRST LADY



**WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE 18TH SEASON OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE'S MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES.** Once again, this program of live performances – enjoyed either in person or online – is sure to enrich our entire community through the undeniable power of shared musical experiences.

This year's series – Prisms of Sound – is aptly named. As a prism breaks light into its component parts, this series will illuminate the tremendous musical diversity all around us, as well as the boundless creativity of so many talented artists. We are certain you will find something to love in this series; better yet, you have the unique opportunity to be introduced to new musical styles and discover the work of new composers and musicians.

Since the onset of the pandemic, we have all gained a new appreciation of how much we need to connect with and learn from each other – not only with our families and friends, but with those who share our interest in high-quality and innovative concert performances. Even as we all continue to take the necessary steps to keep each other safe, we know the value of our relationships in carrying us through these challenges. Thanks to the commitment of Founding Artistic Director Xiang Gao and his whole team, we can again explore the exciting world of music together. What's more, their hard work in making these performances available online opens the door for so many more members of the UD community around the world to enjoy the magic of live music.

As we enjoy this unprecedented season, we are so glad that you will be with us, remembering the immense power and enduring impact of great art.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

**Dennis and Eleni Assanis**

President and First Lady of the University of Delaware

# LETTER FROM DEAN PELESKO

**WELCOME TO “PRISMS OF SOUND” - THE 18TH SEASON OF THE MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE!** The College of Arts and Sciences is proud to be the home of Master Players and to celebrate another season of world-class concert presentations planned and produced by University of Delaware Trustees Distinguished Professor of Music Xiang Gao and his team.

We thank the generous donors of Master Players and Master Players Advisory Council members for their support and leadership. Their work and support are crucial to the success of Master Players.

I hope you will enjoy the array of virtuoso musicians featured by Master Players this season. They will not only share their impeccable musical talents with us here at UD, but also bring hope, joy, and inspiration to our students.

I look forward to seeing you at Master Players concerts this season.

Sincerely,

**John A. Pelesko**

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR & COUNCIL CHAIR

This spring, we will continue to feature top quality artists and unconventional programming. Our focus is on diversity in all directions. Through live classical, rock and world music, the extraordinary artists we host will demonstrate the unifying and healing power of human creativity and music. We know the universal language of music can bring people from all walks of life together so we can celebrate our commonalities, in spite of our differences.

Local donors, Delaware Division for the Arts and our Advisory Council have generously funded the spring events so that they can continue to be free of charge, as a gift to all of you. For those of you who would like to enjoy our concerts at home, many of these exceptional performances will be sent to your screens and smart devices. We will also have limited in-person seating available by reservation. The details of our inaugural summer series, **Midsummer Night Soirees**, will be announced in late spring.

We will of course be following all **in-person event policies** of the University, so you can feel safe and comfortable while enjoying the irreplaceable live music we've all missed during the past two years.

As a representative of the arts on UD campus, we are led by Dean John Pelesko and Associate Dean for the Arts Suzanne Burton. We thank them for all their guidance and support. We are grateful for our many generous donors and Advisory Council members who have been here to support our series during both good and challenging times. You can make tax-deductible donations this season **HERE**, helping us keep these cultural and social engagements available to all.

We thank you for being great audiences and supporters. Our goal this spring is to make sure all of you can enjoy your time while proudly calling UD's beautiful campus HOME.

Best wishes for your health and safety,

**Xiang Gao**, Artistic Director

**Michael Luck**, Chair of the Advisory Council

*Director Xiang Gao*



*Council Chair  
Michael Luck*

**Congrats to MP Director Xiang Gao on  
being named one of Musical America's  
Top 30 Professionals of the Year!**

# COUNCIL & STAFF

## Advisory Council

C. Michael Luck, Chair  
Catriona Binder-Macleod  
Justin Chou '13  
Xiang Gao, Ex-officio  
Dr. Charles E. Hockersmith  
Linda J. Myrick '77  
Stuart J. Sharkey  
Randy Stone  
Dawn Yang '08

## Advisory Council Chairs Emeriti

Dr. Richard B. Fischer  
Marichu Valencia

## Master Players Staff

Xiang Gao  
*Producing Director*  
Melissa Kitchen  
*General Manager*  
Binrui Mo  
*Technology & Production  
Coordinator*  
Chiara Ferrero  
*Artist & Outreach Coordinator*  
Ben Zong  
*Production & Finance  
Assistant*  
Jacob Goodstein  
*Marketing Intern*  
Mariah Miller  
*Grants Intern*  
Yixue Wang  
*Production Intern*  
6-WIRE  
*Ensemble-in-Residence*

## College of Arts & Sciences Staff Support

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Alison Yerger  
*Senior Business Officer*

Special thanks to the Associate  
Dean of the Arts, **Dr. Suzanne  
Burton**, for her support and  
leadership of our organization.

Special thanks to the UD School  
of Music staff and interim  
director **Mark Clodfelter**.

# GOLD MEDALIST: PIANIST WYNONA WANG

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5 | 3 P.M. ET | GORE RECITAL HALL & LIVESTREAM**

*This event is underwritten by Dorothy and Stuart Sharkey | 100 minutes, Ages 10+*

The newest entry in our popular Gold Medalist mini-series features the sensational Chinese pianist Wynona Wang. Since being awarded the gold medal in the 2017 Wideman International Piano Competition, Wynona has gone on to win numerous other awards and accolades, including First Prize at the 2018 Concert Artists Guild International Competition and the Salon de Virtuosi's 2019 "Charlotte White" Career Grant. As an active performer in China, Europe and the United States, she has graced

the stages of many prestigious concert halls with distinguished orchestras and chamber ensembles from around the world. She currently lives in New York while pursuing her undergraduate degree at The Juilliard School as a student of Dr. Robert McDonald. Wynona will make her Delaware debut with a program featuring works by Mozart, Chen Yi, Liszt, Schumann and others.

Visit [www.masterplayers.udel.edu](http://www.masterplayers.udel.edu)  
or scan the QR code for a free  
in-person or  
virtual ticket!



*Wynona Wang*

# LISTENING WITH BOB: A BACKSTAGE PASS ONLINE EVENT

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10 | 3 P.M. ET | ZOOM WEBINAR**

*This event is underwritten by Karen and Michael Luck | 60 minutes, Ages 10+*

This free-of-charge webinar is a gathering place—similar to a book club event—where music lovers, students and newcomers can meet some of our guest artists for a “backstage chat” one week before they perform on our stage. With the help of Master Players Director Xiang Gao and our new Music Historian-in-Residence, the world renowned Dr. Robert Greenberg of **The Great Courses**, the audience will develop a deeper connection to classical music by learning:

- how to appreciate great music by understanding the musical language of the composers and performers
- the inspiring, fun and lesser known stories and life experiences of the master musicians
- the easy and fun ways to listen to the masterpieces we will present in the concert one week later

Dr. Greenberg will then return to host our Great Concertmasters event on Saturday, April 16th, in the premiere of our new concert feature, Listening with Bob, continuing the engaging conversation and enhancing the live concert experience for our audience.

Visit [www.masterplayers.udel.edu](http://www.masterplayers.udel.edu) or scan the QR code for a free virtual ticket!



*Robert Greenberg*

*“The Elvis of music history  
and appreciation.”*

- Bangor (Maine) Daily News

# GREAT CONCERTMASTERS: VIOLINIST DAVID HALEN & FRIENDS



David Halen

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16 | 3:00 P.M. ET | GORE RECITAL HALL & LIVESTREAM  
LISTENING WITH BOB STARTS AT 2:30 P.M.**

*This event is underwritten by Karen and Michael Luck | 120 minutes, ages 12+*

Now entering his 26th year as the concertmaster of the St. Louis Symphony, the legendary violinist David Halen is also an accomplished concert soloist, recitalist, and professor of violin at the University of Michigan. Joining Mr. Halen on stage are cellist Estelle Choi of the Calidore String Quartet, pianists Angela Draghicescu and Mark Livshits, violist Elias Goldstein, and violinist Xiang Gao. The program includes Brahms' D minor Violin-Piano Sonata No. 3 and Piano Quintet in F minor, as well as Dvorak's Terzetto in C major. In addition to his performance, Mr. Halen will be leading a masterclass for our growing violin program at the UD School of Music.

Visit [www.masterplayers.udel.edu](http://www.masterplayers.udel.edu) or scan the QR code for a free in-person or virtual ticket!

*This concert will be the first to introduce our new **Listening with Bob** concert feature. Dr. Robert Greenberg will interweave the performance with fascinating stories about the works, composers, and artists featured in this concert, as well as his "word scores," adding a new level of appreciation and fun for the audience. Join us at 2:30 p.m. for a free pre-concert lecture by Dr. Greenberg.*



Estelle Choi



Angela Draghicescu



Mark Livshits



Elias Goldstein



Xiang Gao



Robert Greenberg

# 6-WIRE & ALEXANDER KARIOTIS: FROM CLASSICAL TO ROCK

**SATURDAY, JUNE 4 | 12:30 P.M. ET | ROSELLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

*This event will take place during Alumni Weekend 2022. 70 minutes, suggested ages 6+*

For the first time since their sold-out Carnegie Hall concert in 2019, Ensemble-in-Residence 6-WIRE returns to the UD stage for a family-friendly performance featuring musicians who can comfortably switch between musical styles such as classical, jazz, world and rock. In summer of 2020, 6-WIRE released a new CD titled “6-WIRE on 57th,” featuring many UD faculty and ensembles performing the program they premiered at Carnegie Hall. This spring they will collaborate with guest artists to perform music from many styles and give the world premiere of new crossover music commissioned for the ensemble.

Collaborating with 6-WIRE is singer Alexander Kariotis, professor of voice at The University of Texas at El Paso. Weaving timeless operatic arias amid soaring rock melodies, supported by the powerhouse rock rhythm section of his Rock Opera Band, Alexander’s unique mix of vocal styles leaves his audience exhilarated and breathless. As an operatic tenor, a Broadway leading man and a classical crossover artist, Alexander has performed internationally in many prominent venues, such as Avery Fisher Hall and the Berlin Philharmonic, as well as the Columbia Artists/Broadway tour of “Master Class.” Joining Alexander are his band members Kevin Brown, Hal Hirsch, and Alan Michaels.

*Event location will be announced at a later date.*

Visit [www.masterplayers.udel.edu](http://www.masterplayers.udel.edu) or scan the QR code for a free in-person ticket!



Alexander Kariotis



6-WIRE



Alan Michaels



Hal Hirsch



Kevin Brown

# NEW FEATURE: **LISTENING WITH BOB**

Master Players is honored to welcome our new Music Historian-in-Residence, Dr. Robert Greenberg, who will present our new concert feature, **Listening with Bob**. Dr. Greenberg is a music historian, composer, pianist, speaker, storyteller, and author. Master Players will work with Dr. Greenberg in our 2022-23 season to build connections with many music and non-music UD professors, K-12 classroom teachers, UD and local students through special pre-concert webinars and lectures that teach them the necessary skills and knowledge needed to fully enjoy classical music while sharing the fascinating stories behind famous compositions and composers. While the feature is designed to introduce students to classical music, all are welcome to attend.

A week prior to each concert with the **Listening with Bob** feature, we will present a Backstage Pass Online (BPO) webinar where Dr. Greenberg will tell the background stories of the works, composers and performers to be featured in the upcoming concert. Then, 30 minutes prior to each **Listening with Bob** concert, Dr. Greenberg will open the concert via livestream with his “word scores,” leading the audience on an inspiring journey into the inner musical and intellectual worlds of the great composers and performers featured in the concert while interacting with the world-class guest artists and the in-person and virtual audience members.

This feature will make its debut in Spring 2022 during our Great Concertmasters concert on Saturday, April 16, preceded by a webinar with Dr. Greenberg and some of the concert artists on Sunday, April 10. The feature will be officially launched in the 2022-2023 season.

# OUTREACH: THE LITTLE MASTERS PROJECT

THE LITTLE MASTERS PROJECT (LMP) is designed to inspire and empower the children of under-served communities in the tri-state region by providing free musical instruments, private music lessons, and music theory classes to challenge them, developing their self-esteem and show them the reward and beauty of making music. LMP also provides its participants with once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunities to share the stage with professional musicians.

Like many projects, the Little Masters Project was postponed indefinitely in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participating students completed their lessons via Zoom in the spring of 2020, but a lack of funds, manpower, and other resources prevented it from returning in fall 2020. Under the leadership of Master Players Advisory Council member **Randy Stone**, we plan to bring this important program back to our students in 2022.

For more information about how to support LMP, contact us at [masterplayers@udel.edu](mailto:masterplayers@udel.edu).



# 6-WIRE:

## UD ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE

Inspired by the historical connection between the Erhu, the Chinese 2-stringed violin, and the 4-stringed Western violin – both essential leading instruments, 6-WIRE was founded in 2010 by two virtuoso musicians: violinist Xiang Gao and erhu master Cathy Yang, who compose and perform contemporary, classical, chamber, world music, and jazz with the remarkable pianist and arranger, Matthew Brower. 6-WIRE celebrates diversity in its performances, weaving stories into its concerts, transforming how live instrumental music is experienced. To learn more, visit [6-WIRE.com!](http://6-WIRE.com!)



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LET US PLAN AND EXECUTE YOUR BUSINESS OR SOCIAL EVENT. Our convenient location combined with award-winning service, food and technology, create the ideal environment. Hotel guest rooms provide the final touch to the perfect event.

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# UPDATE: SHANGHAI SONATAS

Offering a timely message of peace and cultural understanding, *Shanghai Sonatas*, the new musical in development born on UD's campus in 2019, shares memoirs of Jewish classical musicians who escaped Nazi Germany and found refuge in Shanghai, and the Chinese who welcomed them there. Since its last workshop performance in February of 2020, Xiang and the creative team of Shanghai Sonatas have made major revisions to the musical, replacing 60% of the book and composing 8 new songs. On Friday, December 10, 2021, the **new iteration of Shanghai Sonatas** was presented by 2021 Tony Award-winning Broadway producers in a Broadway workshop in New York City's Theatre 555. It was successfully received by an audience of renowned Broadway producers and financiers. Master Players is gathering additional support and collaborating presenters to have the musical's 4th edition presented at UD as a concert production version in 2022, preceding off campus performances promoting UD excellence in the arts.

*Special thanks to the Bloom Jewish Music Foundation and RBC for their support of Shanghai Sonatas.*



# TICKETING & PARKING



**TICKETING:** All of our spring 2022 events are free of charge, but reservations are required. Please visit our website at [www.masterplayers.udel.edu/events/tickets](http://www.masterplayers.udel.edu/events/tickets) or scan the QR code here to reserve your tickets.



**GENERAL PUBLIC PARKING** is recommended in the CFA Parking Garage between South Main (Elkton Road) and Amstel Avenue. The parking charge for the CFA Parking Garage is \$3 per hour or part thereof, with a maximum charge of \$7 on weekends. The CFA Parking Garage accepts cash and credit cards. Metered spaces on South College, Kent Way and Amstel Avenue are also an option for parking at the cost of \$1.25 an hour (paid by quarters or credit card). Alternatively, patrons may opt to use the **Passport Parking app** to pay when they arrive. The CFA Garage zone code is **1663**.

**GPS ADDRESSES:** Center for the Arts/Gore Recital Hall: 110 Orchard Rd., Newark, DE 19716  
CFA Parking Garage: 135 Amstel Ave., Newark, DE 19716

## ABOUT MASTER PLAYERS

**MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES (“MASTER PLAYERS”) SERVES AS THE CULTURAL AMBASSADOR FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE.** Producing Artistic Director Xiang Gao, international artist and University of Delaware Trustees Distinguished Professor of Music, brings a rich and wide array of world-class musicians to the UD campus and to underserved local communities. The series' hallmarks are its high artistic standards, the Delaware debuts of remarkable artists, and its diverse and distinctive programming. Master Players is proud to offer a large variety of public performances in our numerous University venues and throughout the region. Master Players is co-sponsored by our long-term collaborating unit, the UD School of Music.



# SPONSORS



NATIONAL  
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# CONTACT US

## GENERAL INQUIRIES

[masterplayers@udel.edu](mailto:masterplayers@udel.edu)

(302) 831 - 3149

## WEBSITE

[www.masterplayers.udel.edu](http://www.masterplayers.udel.edu)

Click the "stay informed" button on our website to join our email list and get concert related updates.



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